

The Sailors' Snug Harbor, Chapel  
Richmond Terrace  
New Brighton  
New York  
Richmond County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5480

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ADDITIONAL  
FOLLOWS...

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5480

THE SAILORS' SNUG HARBOR, CHAPEL

Address: Richmond Terrace, between Tysen Avenue and Delafield Place, New Brighton, New York, Richmond County, New York.

Present Owner: The Trustees of The Sailors' Snug Harbor in the City of New York.

Present Occupant: The Sailors' Snug Harbor.

Present Use: Chapel.

Statement of Significance: The Sailors' Snug Harbor is a home for aged seamen opened on Staten Island in 1833. The chapel, built in 1855, forms part of the institution's particularly rich catalog of nineteenth-century architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: See photo-data book for The Sailors' Snug Harbor, HABS No. NY-5473, for this information.
2. Date of erection: The New York Daily Times reported on November 22, 1855, that the cornerstone for the chapel had been put in place:

The new Chapel is already partly up; but a hole was left for the Corner-Stone Box. In the temporary place occupied for religious purposes the company assembled. . .

Mr. Salmon, architect and builder at the Harbor, has furnished at our request, a description, which is interesting:

The Chapel is 48 feet by 65 feet, for the main building with a rear extension 16 feet by 23 feet and a porch in front. It is calculated to seat comfortably 600 persons. . . .

3. Architect: The above article suggests that the architect was Mr. Salmon. In Trow's New York City Directory for 1855 was the following listing:

Salmon James, builder, 121-1/2 E. 16th, n. 125 E. 16th.

B. Bibliography

Note: See photo-data book for The Sailors' Snug Harbor, HABS No. NY-5473 for additional bibliographical material.

Phillips, W.W. Address Delivered at the Laying of the Corner-Stone of the New Chapel. New York: Published by Request of the Trustees, 1855.

"Sailors' Snug Harbor. Corner Stone of a New Chapel," New York Daily Times, November 22, 1855, p. 2.

Willson, H., compiler. Trow's New York City Directory. New York: John F. Trow, 1855.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: The Sailors' Snug Harbor is a home for aged seamen opened on Staten Island in 1833. The chapel, built in 1855, forms part of the institution's particularly rich catalog of nineteenth-century architecture.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories: One story.

2. Number of bays: North facade is three bays wide; south elevation is four bays wide; and east and west elevations are each six bays wide.

3. Over-all dimensions: The building measures approximately 92'-0" long and 45'-0" wide.

4. Layout, shape: The nave is rectangular in plan with projecting tower on the north facade and projecting rectangular room on the south facade.

5. Foundations: Brick walls, painted gray.

6. Wall construction, finish and color: Brick, laid up in running bond, painted yellow with brick pilasters painted white at corners and between windows.

7. Stoop: Stone steps on brick foundation lead up to entrance tower; iron railing painted white.

8. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance, on the north face of the tower, has double wooden paneled doors painted black with fanlight above. On east and west faces of the tower are paneled wooden doors with fanlight; these doors are no longer use.
- b. Windows: On the rear (south) elevation there are round-headed windows with six-over-six-light double-hung sash. On the other three elevations there are round-headed stained glass windows, subdivided into two arched sections with roundel above. The tower has three round windows with seven roundels in each large window at the second stage level.

9. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled roof with modern shingles.
- b. Cornice: Brick frieze below bracketed wooden cornice.
- c. Tower: Three stage entrance tower in center of north facade. The third stage of the tower is wooden, with a large arch on each face, subdivided into two arched sections with louvers and roundel.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Vestibule in tower opens into rectangular nave with balcony at north end and semi-circular apse at south end. There are four sections of pews.
2. Stairways: Wooden stairways immediately south of vestibule lead to balcony.
3. Flooring: Wooden, with red carpeting in aisles; linoleum in vestibule.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceiling with wooden wainscoting painted white. Above wainscoting, columns with ionic capitals are painted between windows. Coved ceiling is painted a light rose shade with ceiling decoration painted brown.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden, paneled doors have wooden trim.
6. Lighting: Electrical; two hanging lamps in nave.
7. Heating: Hot air.

D. Site and surroundings

1. Orientation: The entrance facade faces north. The building is located approximately 260 feet south-southeast of the most easterly dormitory (Building E).
2. Sidewalks: Stone.

Prepared by Diana S. Waite  
Architectural Historian  
June, 1968

Addendum To

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